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INDONESIA

USAID-Chevron Alliance for Technical Education Program Update

November 2006



Background and Purpose

In May 2005, USAID and Chevron Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly support technical education in post-tsunami Aceh. Under this public-private alliance, each partner will provide \$5 million to support vocational skills training and the construction of a new polytechnic institute in Aceh.

Accomplishments

From July 2005 through May 2006, USAID/Indonesia and Chevron worked together to provide scholarships to young people aged 18-22 from Aceh and Nias, to attend three-month **vocational skill building courses** held at Chevron's polytechnic institute in the nearby province of Riau. A total of 346 youth (including 86 women) completed these short-term classes in key areas needed for reconstruction: welding (44), masonry and house construction (65), electrical installation (50), carpentry (38), automobile repair (18), computer applications (51), and bookkeeping (80).

Approximately two-thirds of the students were from villages along the devastated western coast of Aceh, along the road corridor from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh. The final group of participants included 33 from the often neglected Nias Island, who studied side-by-side with young people from Aceh. Most of these young people had never left their home province and never had the opportunity to make friends with youth of a different ethnicity or religion.

Other Activities

- **Monitoring the participants to determine effects of the training program**

A monitoring team is tracing the employment status of the participants and will conduct periodic in-depth interviews with a subset of participants to understand the challenges and successes they experience in terms of finding jobs and/or starting their own businesses. Anecdotally, two-thirds of the participants from the first and second phases report being employed. For instance, one participant is a field supervisor for a construction team. Another participant has started his own electrical installation company and has hired several friends to help him finish a contract to install wiring in 15 reconstructed houses. One woman has been hired by the private sector as a bookkeeper at a publishing company. The monitoring team will provide four impact reports from April 2006 to September 2007 so that further support to the Chevron participant group can be appropriately targeted.

CONTINUES >



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- **Promoting the availability of the USAID-Chevron participants to strategic employers**

USAID is promoting the USAID-Chevron participants to several employers in Aceh, such as the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, road construction contractors, international NGOs involved in housing construction, and the Bureau for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation for Aceh and Nias (BRR).

- **Identifying business start-up and/or microfinance support to the USAID-Chevron participants**

Some participants are interested in starting their own business, such as a group that expressed interest in opening a welding or car repair shop along the road corridor from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh. USAID is helping to facilitate business start-ups and microfinance support to these participants.

- **Construction of a new polytechnic institute in Aceh**

USAID and Chevron are committed to increasing the quality and market relevance of technical education in order to support long-term economic development and education needs in Aceh province. USAID and Chevron will design a new polytechnic institute in Aceh, using to the maximum extent possible Chevron's experience in building a similar facility in Riau.

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